

## Emergency Preparedness – Credible Information

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Research shows us that in a disaster, information is as important to people as food and water. When a flood surges, a tornado strikes or a disease outbreak sweeps through your community, leaders and officials will provide information on what you should do, where you should go and how you can protect your family.

Do you know how to get that credible information? It may not be quite as easy as switching on your television. The January 2007 ice storm and other recent natural disasters have pointed out the need for us to have a backup plan for getting information. When the electricity is out, the television news that many of us depend on may not be available.

Newspapers that are delivered daily or weekly may not come often enough to keep you updated if the situation changes quickly. The Internet might be so overwhelmed that you are unable to access it.

A battery-powered radio will continue to provide you with information, no matter what the situation. In addition, NOAA all-hazards weather alert radios can carry emergency messages on a number of situations, including weather issues, civil emergencies, health emergencies and more. These radios can be programmed to receive messages for only your county, or for surrounding counties. For more information, visit [www.pca-radio.com](http://www.pca-radio.com).

Another thing to consider is whether or not you know how to get *local* information. The major news stations on cable or satellite may not have information specific to your community. They may carry general information, or information for larger cities or more densely populated areas. While that may be helpful, you may also need to know specific instructions about where to go and what to do in your own community.

Contact the Springfield-Greene County Health Department at (417) 864-1658 to learn how you can get credible, timely, local information in a disaster.

You admitted you were at risk, you created a plan, you practiced that plan, and now you know where to get information in a disaster. Stay prepared by refreshing the supplies in your emergency kit and by continuously practicing and evaluating your plan. With just these simple steps, you can be better prepared when the next disaster strikes to care for yourself, your family and your community.